

TDA-3 Questions and Answers Report (Part 4)

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
	238.	<p>In reference to the technical literature which is required for the TDA-3 submission, does "pre-printed, OEM-generated documentation" include documentation which is downloaded from an OEM's website if requirements are being addressed within this documentation?</p> <p>In addition, does the Government intend to update the pricing spreadsheets, product requirements matrices and warranty profiles since information has changed from the last couple of amendments or is the offeror required to make the applicable changes?</p> <p>In the interest of time, we respectfully request the answers to the above questions as soon as possible. Pulsar does intend to bid on the full and open portion of the solicitation.</p>	<p>The Government requires technical documentation in either of the following formats:</p> <p>a) preprinted, OEM-generated documentation; or</p> <p>b) a letter from the OEM, signed by a recognized official of the OEM and printed on OEM letterhead, certifying to the requirement being addressed.</p>
	239.	Will the Government be answering any questions received after November 25, 1997? Moreover, will the Government be answering any questions that have resulted from previously released Questions and Answers?	Yes. Specifically, the Government will respond to all questions that have resulted from previously released Questions and Answers and amendments to the RFP.
	240.	<p>May we use the Treasury logo on our binders ?</p> <p>If we are allowed to use it, where might the artwork be found ?</p>	The Government's works are not subject to copyright laws.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer																																		
B	241.	<p>Your response in Item 04 in the referenced Questions and Answers (Part 1) stated that the SBA had granted a class waver for mainframe computers and peripherals and laser printers. This answer leaves an impression that your office has not obtained Waivers of the Nonmanufacturer Rules for other applicable items sought by TDA-3. Is this a correct a assumption?....Our market research and consultation with the supplier community led us to believe that the items on the following page need to have the nonmanufacturer rules waived for the small business set aside competition. We respectfully request that your office pursue those waivers.</p> <p>LIST OF CONTRACT LINE ITEMS REQUIRING THE NONMANUFACTURER RULE WAIVERS FOR THE SMALL BUSSINESS SET ASIDE COMPETITION</p> <table><tr><th>CLIN</th><th>DESCRIPTION</th></tr><tr><td>0013</td><td>15" monitor</td></tr><tr><td>0014</td><td>17" monitor</td></tr><tr><td>0015</td><td>21" monitor</td></tr><tr><td>0016</td><td>2.5 Gbyte hard disk drive</td></tr><tr><td>0017</td><td>4.0 Gbyte hard disk drive</td></tr><tr><td>0018</td><td>9.0 Gbyte hard disk drive</td></tr><tr><td>0019</td><td>1.0 Gbyte internal tape drive</td></tr><tr><td>0020</td><td>1.0 Gbyte external tape drive</td></tr><tr><td>0021</td><td>4.0 Gbyte internal tape drive</td></tr><tr><td>0022</td><td>100 Mbyte removable cartridge storage system</td></tr><tr><td>0023</td><td>1.0 Gbyte external removable cartridge storage system</td></tr><tr><td>0024</td><td>1.0 Gbyte internal removable cartridge storage system</td></tr><tr><td>0025</td><td>Internal CD reader and recorder</td></tr><tr><td>0026</td><td>External CD reader and recorder</td></tr><tr><td>0028</td><td>Internal fax modem</td></tr><tr><td>0029</td><td>External fax modem</td></tr></table>	CLIN	DESCRIPTION	0013	15" monitor	0014	17" monitor	0015	21" monitor	0016	2.5 Gbyte hard disk drive	0017	4.0 Gbyte hard disk drive	0018	9.0 Gbyte hard disk drive	0019	1.0 Gbyte internal tape drive	0020	1.0 Gbyte external tape drive	0021	4.0 Gbyte internal tape drive	0022	100 Mbyte removable cartridge storage system	0023	1.0 Gbyte external removable cartridge storage system	0024	1.0 Gbyte internal removable cartridge storage system	0025	Internal CD reader and recorder	0026	External CD reader and recorder	0028	Internal fax modem	0029	External fax modem	<p>Yes, your assumption is correct. Please be advised, we have recently conducted a market research...Based on our findings we are currently seeking waivers for the referenced CLINs. Also, refer to the response provided at Item 242.</p>
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Reference	Item	Question	Answer																																												
		0030 PCMCIA fax modem																																													
		0031 I/O interface card																																													
		0032 Surge and spike protector																																													
		0033 16-bit 10BaseT ethernet card																																													
		0034 16-bit 10Base2 ethernet card																																													
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		0036 32-bit 10BaseT ethernet card																																													
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		0040 Portable printer for notebook																																													
		0041 Inkjet printer																																													
		0045 UPS																																													
		0047 All software CLINs through 0066																																													
B.	242.	<p>The CLINs that we are having difficulty sourcing BAA/TAA - Small Business - 5045 - Under 500 employees are the following:</p> <table><tr><th>CLIN</th><th>Description</th></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>SVGA Color Monitor 15"</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>SVGA Color Monitor 17"</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>SVGA Color Monitor 21"</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>Hard Drive 2.5 GB</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>Hard Drive 4.0 GB</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>Hard Drive 9.0 GB</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>Tape Cartridge BU, 1.0GB Int</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>Tape Cartridge BU, 1.0GB Ext</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>Tape Cartridge BU, 4.0GB</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>CD-Reader & Recorder Int</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>CD-Reader & Recorder Ext</td></tr><tr><td>33</td><td>NIC, 10BaseT, 16 Bit</td></tr><tr><td>34</td><td>NIC, 10Base2, 16 Bit</td></tr><tr><td>35</td><td>NIC, Token Ring</td></tr><tr><td>36</td><td>NIC, 10BaseT, 32 Bit</td></tr><tr><td>37</td><td>NIC, 10Base2, 32 Bit</td></tr><tr><td>38</td><td>NIC, 10BaseT, PCMCIA</td></tr><tr><td>39</td><td>NIC, 10Base2, PCMCIA</td></tr><tr><td>40</td><td>Portable Printers</td></tr><tr><td>41</td><td>InkJet Printers</td></tr><tr><td>47-66</td><td>Software with the possible exception of the non-specific software.</td></tr></table>	CLIN	Description	13	SVGA Color Monitor 15"	14	SVGA Color Monitor 17"	15	SVGA Color Monitor 21"	16	Hard Drive 2.5 GB	17	Hard Drive 4.0 GB	18	Hard Drive 9.0 GB	19	Tape Cartridge BU, 1.0GB Int	20	Tape Cartridge BU, 1.0GB Ext	21	Tape Cartridge BU, 4.0GB	25	CD-Reader & Recorder Int	26	CD-Reader & Recorder Ext	33	NIC, 10BaseT, 16 Bit	34	NIC, 10Base2, 16 Bit	35	NIC, Token Ring	36	NIC, 10BaseT, 32 Bit	37	NIC, 10Base2, 32 Bit	38	NIC, 10BaseT, PCMCIA	39	NIC, 10Base2, PCMCIA	40	Portable Printers	41	InkJet Printers	47-66	Software with the possible exception of the non-specific software.	<p>With regards to the small business set-aside portion of the TDA-3 acquisition, please be advised that the Government recently completed a market research to determine the availability of the referenced CLINs from small businesses (size standard in accordance with SIC Code 5045). Based on the Government's findings, we are currently pursuing non-manufacturer waivers from SBA for the referenced CLINs.</p>
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B.	243.	It is noted in this paragraph that the Treasury Department has a well-established base of Intel microprocessor based products. Will the Government accept non-Intel based CPUs?	Yes. Any product that meets or exceeds the minimum requirement as specified in the solicitation can be proposed.
B.	244.	<p>here is a list of the specific CLIN #'s that we were not able to find any small businesses to correspond with.</p> <p>CLIN 7 through 12 - the memory is in question because the only manufactures that make the silicon wafer boards are the large companies like Texas Instruments & Micron. While these large companies do sell these boards to smaller companies who do the final assembly and sold under that name - the wafer boards are at least 80% of the cost of manufacturing.</p> <p>CLIN 16 through 21 - the Hard Drives, Tape Drives and media are all made by large manufacturers and not only that most of them are assembled in countries which are not allowed.</p> <p>CLIN 25 through 26 - the CDR's we would be able to find in countries not allowed but none were found under 500 and assembled in an allowed country.</p> <p>CLIN 40 through 44 - we were not able to find any printer manufacturers that were under 500 employees and almost all most all printers use Canon "insides"</p>	See response provided at Item 241.
B. 3. b.	245.	The requirement as stated places undue burden and risk on companies submitting a proposal in response to the subject RFP. We have found that the original software manufacturers are, in some cases, not willing to provide the vendor with the new versions of their products at the price proposed for a previous version. Since new product released and pricing are under the control of the software provider and not the vendor, we request this requirement be changes to allow for adjusted pricing in such cases.	This requirement has been revised to delete paragraph (c) at Section B.3.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 3. B.	246.	Many software manufacturers are not willing to provide new versions of their products at the same price as a previous version. Therefore this places undue burden on a vendor if the software manufacturer releases a new version of software prior to contract award or for 180 days following contract award. We request that this requirement be amended to allow the vendor to offer the latest version software at the then current price.	This requirement will remain as stated.
B. 9. 1.	247.	<p>As a system integrator I have surveyed the market and obtained quotes for compliant workstations, servers and notebooks. In response, national manufacturers offer 300mhz systems (their "most current") while local manufacturers offer 200 and 166mhz systems at significant lower cost. Without clarification, national manufacturers MUST offer their 300 mhz systems even if slower, less costly, products are in their product line. In this context, my questions follows.</p> <p>References: B.9.1, B.9.2, and B.9.3 (CLINs 0001, 0003, 0004, 0005, 0006)</p> <p>Given that minimum processor speed is not specified, and that award will be based on price, regional manufacturers, offering only slower processors as their "most currently available commercial technology," will have a cost advantage over national suppliers which have the newest, fastest processors in their product line. Please clarify the requirement by specifying the minimum processor speed for each workstation, server and notebook.</p>	Please refer to the answer to Q&A Part 3, Item 93.
B. 9. 1. 2	248.	RFP Section D-4, "RFP Reference" B.9.1.2, row 18, Page D.4-8. This item does not appear to require a response, however a No has been inserted. Please clarify.	This error was corrected in Amendment 0006 dated January 23, 1998.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 1. 2	249.	At B.9.1.2 it is stated that "The Contractor shall only provide processor upgrades, or new model upgrades, within the same product brand/manufacture/family." Is the Government's intent to restrict upgrades within the same workstation manufacturer brand (ie. IBM, Compaq, Dell, etc.), or does this extend to the chip/microprocessor brand level, (ie., Intel, IBM, AMD, etc.)?	Please refer to answer to Question 93. Please also refer to Section B.9.1.2 in Amendment 0007 dated January 28, 1998.
B. 9. 1. 2.	250.	The solicitation currently requires, at a minimum, either a 233 MHZ Pentium MMX, 200 MHZ Pentium MMX, or equivalent system for the two workstations [paragraphs (a) and (b)]. Equivalent system is defined by the specifications of paragraph (c). The problem is that processors made by manufacturers other than Intel may provide equivalent performance to the Pentium processors, but achieve that performance in a manner that does not meet the specifications of paragraph (c). In particular, the executions of instructions per clock cycle [paragraphs (c)(3) and (c)(5)] are not met by other major processor manufacturers. By including them, the Government is restricting workstations to those using Pentium processors because the specifications of paragraph (c) eliminate any equivalent that might be allowable under paragraphs (a) and (b). Will the Government accept an equivalent processor by a manufacturer other than Intel that does not meet all the specifications of paragraph B.9.1.2.(c)?	<p>Paragraph B.9.1.2.(c)(3) was deleted in Amendment 0007 dated January 28, 1998.</p> <p>Paragraph B.9.1.2.(c)(5) -- All reference after "built-in floating point unit" was removed (except the semi-colon) Amendment 0007 dated January 28, 1998.</p> <p>Paragraph B.9.2.2.(c)(5) -- The existing language was replaced in its entirety by the phrase, "Superscalar architecture," in Amendment 0007, dated January 28, 1998.</p> <p>The above changes are made to preclude the possibility of limiting competition in the proposed CPUs.</p>
B. 9. 1. 2.	251.	RFP Section D-4, "RFP Reference" B.9.1.2. (b), Pages D.4-18 and D.4-19. It appears that the offerors are not required to provide verification of compliance. We believe this is a typographical error. Please clarify.	Additional amendments to the matrix have been released to correct all errors and inconsistencies. Offerors are required to provide verification of compliance for B.9.1.2(b).

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 2. 1. G	252.	The requirements is for one 4GB formatted hard disk drive to be included in the base system. Then is Section B.9.2.1.g the requirement is for "available drive bays for four orderable hard disk drives....". This can only be accomplished by the use of SCSI hard disk and controllers. With one hard drive and one CD-ROM, the system is left with only two more IDE drive connections. Which makes the requirement short by two drives. I urge you to reevaluate this requirement and make the necessary changes.	Please refer to Item 267.
B. 9. 2. 1.g.	253.	I would also like to call your attention to B.9.2.1.g of the solicitation: The requirements is for one 4GB formatted hard disk drive to be included in the base system. Then is Section B.9.2.1.g the requirement is for "available drive bays for four orderable hard disk drives....". This can only be accomplished by the use of SCSI hard disk and controllers. With one hard drive and one CD-ROM, the system is left with only two more IDE drive connections. Which makes the requirement short by two drives. I urge you to reevaluate this requirement and make the necessary changes.	Regarding the question on B.9.2.1.g, our response is: "The Government does not require a SCSI-based solution. However, the requirement does not preclude the use of SCSI as a solution. (See Q&A Part 3, Item 137).
B. 9. 3	254.	<p>The vendor who raised the issue in Item 145 is indeed correct. While a typical commercially available 12.1" TFT active matrix LCD screen will be able to display a resolution of 800 x 600 with 256 K colors, its dual scan counterpart can only provide the same resolution at a much smaller number of colors, namely 256. In light of this information, we request that the Government alter the requirements to call for:</p> <p>* a resolution of 800 x 600 with 256K colors for the 12.1" TFT active matrix LCD screen requirement and * a resolution of 800 x 600 with 256 colors for the 12.1" dual scan LCD screen requirement.</p>	The solicitation has been amended at B.9.3.2(b) to state, "One notebook proposed shall provide a minimum 166MHz MMX Pentium or equivalent, with a 12.1" STN (minimum requirement) 800x600 screen with 64K color, and 2 hour battery life."

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 3. 1. r	255.	(As revised by Amendment 4): Since the requirement has been changed to call for a notebook computer with a 13.1" LCD screen instead of 12.1", the weight requirement needs to be adjusted accordingly. While most notebooks with 12.1" LCD screen weigh less than 8 lbs, their counterparts with 13.3" screen weigh typically from 8.7 to 9 lbs. Would the Government please change the requirement in the referenced paragraph to allow for the proposal of notebooks with 13.1" LCD screens weighing up to 9 lbs?	The requirement remains as stated.
B. 9. 3. 1.p.	256.	Q&A Responses 150, 153, 93: The question asked at item (#150) deals with the requirement for a three hour battery life. Neither the response numbered 153 nor 93 addressed this question. Response #153 stated that B.9.3.1 would be amended however there was no discussion of how it would be amended to address the question stated at #150. In response #93 there was no discussion of the battery life requirement. Please clarify and respond to the question at #150.	The Government amended B.9.3.2 in Amendment 0004 dated January 9, 1998, to incorporate a 166MHz notebook with a battery life of 2 hours.
B. 9. 3. 1.r	257.	Since the operating system software required for the workstation, server, and notebook computers are to be separately orderable, the sentence "each hardware end-product requiring a software operating system and graphical user interface (GUI)" should no longer be in the section. Is our interpretation correct?	No. This requirement remains as stated.
B. 9. 3. 2	258.	First paragraph (belonging to B.9.3.2 on Page B-17) on Page B-18 as revised by Amendment 3): With the changes in the CPU requirements for the notebook computers, we believe that the referenced body of text is no longer applicable. It was useful when the Government left the structure of the CPU solution to the discretion of vendors. Under the changes stipulated in Amendment 4, we believe that its removal is warranted avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings.	<p>The reference cited and your statement do not seem to be relevant to each other.</p> <p>The requirement for notebooks remain as stated at B.9.3.2.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 3. 2.(a)	259.	Please note that the requirement as stated in the above referenced section has not been included in the recently released downloadable Technical Requirement Matrices (Section D.4).	This discrepancy has been noted and was corrected in Amendment 0006 dated January 23, 1998.
B. 9. 3. 2.a	260.	(As revised by Amendment 4): In general, the larger the size of the LCD screen of a notebook computer, the more power the unit consumes. Since the Government reduced the battery life requirement for the 12.1' Dual Scan notebook requirement, would the Government consider the same requirement for the 13.1" Active Matrix unit?	The requirement remains as stated.
B. 9. 3. 2.a	261.	(As revised by Amendment 4): We assume that the "3 hour battery life" requirement can be met ...more than one battery pack. Is this a correct assumption?	No.
B. 9. 3. 2.b	262.	(As revised by Amendment 4): Dual Scan LCD screens built with technology available today can only display a resolution of 800 x 600 with 256 colors. We respectfully request that the Government alter the requirement in the referenced paragraph to allow for the proposal of notebook computers commercially available today.	Please see answer to Item 254.
B. 9. 4. 1	263.	RFP Section B.9.4.1, Compliance Matrix, Price Tables: At B.9.4.1 it states, "The RAM upgrades offered shall be in incremental minimums..." and goes on to define the at B.9.4.1(c) as a "minimum 16MB" for workstations. This is further supported in the pricing section and compliance matrix to be a "minimum 16MB". Please clarify if the "minimum 16MB" increment for memory expandability is a mandatory requirement for the workstations. If the "minimum 16MB" is not a mandatory RAM expansion requirement please clarify how offerors should price the RAM expansion CLINs and annotate or change the price table descriptions to reflect exactly what is being proposed and remain consistent with the price evaluation model.	Yes, 16MB RAM increments are mandatory. Also, please refer to Q&A 3, Item 154.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 4. 1	264.	According to the most recent amendment, this paragraph does not require the offeror to provide RAM upgrades without replacing the originally installed RAM. Yet in the just released downloadable Technical Requirements Matrices (Section D.4), the requirement for the CLIN 0007 through CLIN 0010 RAM upgrades reads: "RAM upgrades offered shall be fully compatible with original RAM configuration, and originally installed RAM shall not be replaced to add RAM to current configuration." Since offerors are to respond to the Technical Requirements Matrices, please clarify this inconsistency with the amended requirements and the Answers to Questions.	This discrepancy has been noted, and was corrected in Amendment 0006 dated January 23, 1998.
B. 9. 4. 1.(a)	265.	RFP Section D-4, "RFP Reference" B.9.4.1.(a), Pages D.4-18, D.4-19, D.4-20 and D.4-21. The "Required Minimum Specifications" does not reflect the changes in Amendment #3, which deleted the phrase "...and originally installed RAM shall not be replaced to add RAM to current configuration;". Please clarify.	This has been corrected as of Amendment 0006 dated January 23, 1998.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 6. 1	266.	<p>Items 140, 137, 157, and 158: In the referenced specification and answers, the Government made clear that it requires the housing cabinet of the server to be able to hold a total of 5 different hard disk drives (1 standard and 4 additional). While it is clear that the 5 drives must be able to coexist physically at the same time in the file server, it is not apparent that they all must work simultaneously. There is nothing in the specifications for the file server and hard disk drives to indicate such requirement. To remedy this situation, we suggest that the Government make the following changes:</p> <p>* Alter the specification to require that the file server be equipped with the necessary hardware and software to interface with all installed storage devices (i.e., not just being able to hold them physically).</p> <p>* Alter the CLIN structure and the requirements in B.9.6.1, B.9.6.2, and B.9.6.4 to allow vendors to propose different solutions for the server and workstation requirements. For example, B.9.6.1 should be changed to allow for the proposal of two different sets of 2.5, 4.0, and 9.0 GB hard disk drives for the workstation and server, respectively.</p> <p>The changes proposed above would eliminate all unnecessary confusion and allow for the proposal of verifiably workable solutions.</p>	<p>Please refer to the answer to Item #158 (Q&A Part 3) and Item 267 (herein). Also, please reference Section B.8 of the RFP and Amendment 0005, Section B.9.6.1.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 6. 1	267.	<p>In Section B.9.6.1 of the TDA3 RFP, the Government has specified a 9.0 GB hard drive that is compatible with both the workstations and servers. This offeror has extensively surveyed COTS hard drives and has found that 9GB hard drives are only available with a SCSI interface and is currently not available with an IDE interface. However, in the TDA-3 RFP, the Government did not require SCSI interfaces for the workstations and servers. Also, in the TDA-3 Q&A (Part 3), the Government has re-emphasized that "the Government does not require a SCSI based solution." In light of the above conflicting requirements, please clarify (1) can an offeror propose a 9GB SCSI hard drive or multiple IDE hard drives that add up to 9 GB, (2) if a 9GB SCSI-based hard drive is acceptable, does the Government require a SCSI controller to be included with each 9GB SCSI hard drive ordered (perhaps via a separate CLIN) since a SCSI interface is NOT a requirement for both the servers and workstations and is necessary in order to meet the 9GB hard drive requirement.</p>	<p>Due to the confusion with the server requirement, the specifications will be amended as follows: a single 9GB hard disk drive is required as part of the server solution, deleting the 4GB hard drive requirement.</p>
B. 9. 6. 4.e	268.	<p>Platters in the response are designated as rewriteable, however the requirement of B.9.6.4 states that they must be readable and recordable. Does the government require rewriteable media?</p>	<p>There is no contradiction between the Government's initial requirements and subsequent responses. The Government's requirement in B.9.6.4 is for "CD-Reader and Recorder" systems. The Government requires rewriteable media.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 7	269.	<p>In response to questions dated 12/23/97, there was an amendment to CLIN 0032 for surge protection. The specification was changed to include a "low voltage indicator" requirement. The function of a surge protector is to protect and monitor high voltage situations and has no corrective factor for low voltage. Therefore, the unit would contain a low voltage indicator, yet it could not correct the low voltage situation. Which is why traditional commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) surge suppressors do not have such an indicator. In order to correct a low voltage situation either a step-up transformer or a battery back-up device (UPS) is required, which would greatly increase the cost.</p> <p>The American Power Conversion PER7T-U surge protector meets and exceeds every other specification requested by the Treasury Department. Furthermore, the APC PER7T-U is the incumbent surge protector on the TDA2 contract, which contained no requests for low voltage indication. We believe that the Treasury Department will find the PER7T-U very attractive, based on their familiarity with the product and the demonstrated lack of need for low voltage indication.</p>	<p>Please be advised, the requirement is not a request for a UPS; this is also not a request for the low-priced surge suppressor that simply doubles as an extension cord.</p>
B. 9. 7. 2	270.	<p>The Government requires RJ-11 connectors for line and phone for all 3 types of modems. While this feature is standard on the internal and external modems, it is not on the PCMCIA version. We have only identified one manufacturer that meets this requirement, which offers a more expensive solution,. In order not to limit competition, this offeror recommends tha the Government relax this requirement to a single RJ-11 connector for the PCMCIA modems.</p>	<p>This requirement was amended in Amendment 0006, dated January 23, 1998, to allow for PCMCIA modems with RJ-11 jack for line only.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 7. 2.a	271.	The solicitation requires "a fax/modem device, at a minimum True V.34 transmission..." Are we correct in assuming that "True V.34" means that the modem meets the ITU-T V.34+ standard?	The Government requires a modem conforming to the ITU-T v.34 standard, which provides for a transmission rate of 33.6Kbps. NOTE: The ITU-T standards committee does not refer to V.34 as V.34+.
B. 9. 7. 2.c.	272.	The requirement for RJ-11 connectors for both line and telephone can only be met with product from a single manufacturer of PCMCIA fax/modems. Does the government plan to relax this requirement?	This requirement was amended in Amendment 0006, dated January 23, 1998, to allow for PCMCIA modems with RJ-11 jack for line only.
B. 9. 7. 4	273.	The response to Question 56, TDA-3 Q & A Report (Part 2), amends B.9.7.4 to require a "...low voltage indicator...". The function of a surge protector is to provide protection from high voltage situations, and typically does not include low voltage indication, except in very expensive models which include UPS functionality. This offeror therefore requests that B.9.7.4 be amended to delete the low voltage indicator requirement.	Please be advised, this is not a request for a UPS; this is also not a request for the low-priced surge suppressor that simply doubles as an extension cord. Please see Item 269.
B. 9. 7. 4	274.	RFP Section B, Paragraph B.9.7.4, Page B-22 (B-23). The government requires a "...low voltage indicator,..". While there is at least one vendor that meets this requirement, there is a substantial increase in the cost to the government for this feature. Please verify/confirm, in light of the significant cost differential, that the requirement remains as stated.	The requirement does remain as stated.
B. 9. 7. 4.	275.	You stated you will change the section to read "...low voltage indicator..." . According to industry resources, the question is to clarify that the devices are not to provide LOW voltage protection--but rather, SURGE and SPIKE protection. This is in regards to the UPS as well as the surge protection. The new requirement for a "low voltage indicator" is not readily available--limiting competition. Please relax the requirement to delete any reference to low voltage protection.	The Government requirement remains as stated.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9. 7. 5.(2)(b)	276.	In accordance with Amendment 0003, the above referenced matrices should read that the 10Base2 Ethernet card shall have "a minimum throughput of 2Mbps." The downloadable matrices of Amendment 0005, however, still reference a throughput of 10Mbps. Please clarify.	This discrepancy has been noted, and was corrected in Amendment 0006 dated January 23, 1998.
B. 9. 7.a.	277.	B.9.7.A, Surge Protector, requirement for low voltage indicator: The requirement for a low voltage indicator is still not understood by the industry. We feel you require a 4-outlet "strip" with the surge/spike protection which you have received on TDA-2. To add the "low voltage indicator" to the requirements, you may require a larger, desktop unit, which would mean a difference of \$.75M in the total cost (assuming you order the full 2000+ units). This offeror would like the requirement relaxed to delete the low voltage indicator requirement.	The requirement remains as stated.
B. 9. 8	278.	The technical reference in the matrix would require a letter from the manufacturers stating that their products would be compatible and work with all workstations and servers being proposed. Since these manufacturers will not know what is being proposed they can not certify the products will meet this requirement. Would self-certification by the contractor be acceptable?	Products must be compliant with TDA-3 requirements.
B. 9. 8. 4. g	279.	1,000 sheet capacity: Does this mean input-tray, or combination of input and output? Can this be relaxed to 500 sheet input to ensure consistent compliance?	This requirement applies to the input tray(s) only.
B. 9. 8. 5.	280.	High Capacity Laser Printer Network Interface: Are you asking for a separate stand-alone print server, or an ethernet card installed in the printer itself? Please clarify.	The high-capacity laser printer provided shall be capable of being connected to the offered networks as a separate node. The connectivity can be through the use of an internal network card inserted into the printer, or as an external "intelligent" network interface device (i.e., print jobs can be controlled at the server).

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
B. 9.11(1)	281.	CLIN 0058: For pricing purposes we interpret this requirement as follows: "One server license (x200 copies) which supports 50 users and which would include one copy of documentation for each server license." Is this interpretation correct? Please clarify.	No, your interpretation is not correct. The Government requires one set of documentation, one copy of media, and licenses sufficient for a minimum of 50 users. The Government does not require 50 copies of media and 50 copies of documentation.
B. 9.11.(p)	282.	We have interpreted these paragraphs to specify the same product, Microsoft Systems Management Server Client Access, with the difference being paragraph (p) requires a license, documentation and media, while paragraph (q) only requires the license. However, other feel that in paragraph (q) the Government may want a network server license, not a workstation client access license. Is our interpretation of the requirement correct?	The vendor is correct in their first interpretation, that the Government is specifying the same product, Microsoft Systems Management Server Client Access, with the difference being paragraph (p) requires a license, documentation and media, while paragraph (q) only requires the license.
B.12	283.	RFP Section D-4, "RFP Reference" B.12, Page D4-60, Column 7. This page is for Contractor Services. However, the government requires a "Proposed Version #" for CLIN #67 and #68. Please clarify what the government is requesting.	This error has been corrected in Amendment 0009 dated February 6, 1998.
B.23	284.	Q&A Responses 93, 96, 97, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202: The response in #93 does not address the requirement for Pentium II microprocessors based systems (which can include servers), to be Energy Star compliant. For example Intel does have a Pentium II workstation which is certified as Energy Star compliant, it is a minimally configured system which does not meet the requirements specified in the solicitation.	The Government is not requiring Pentium II processors for the workstations. Servers are not required to be Energy Star compliant.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
C. 3.	285.	Reference: Responses/Questions 215 and 237, RFP Section C, Paragraph C.3, Page C-15, Amendment #4. The government has removed the requirement for FAR Clause 52.225-3 to be incorporated; stated that TAA will be applied at the CLIN level; stated that BAA will be applied in accordance with FAR Subpart 25.402, and included FAR Clause 52.225-9. The application of TAA at the CLIN level appears to be in conflict with FAR Clause 52.225-9 which applies the TAA to the total value of the procurement. Please clarify.	The term "acquisition" is not defined in the context of FAR Part 25. Neither the implementing TAA regulations nor existing case laws disallow applying the TAA at the CLIN level rather than at the solicitation when the solicitation contains items which are both above and below the threshold for the applicability of the TAA. On this basis, it has been determined that the TAA will be applied at the CLIN level for the conduct of TDA-3.
C. 3. (b)(5)	286.	RFP Section C, Paragraph C3. (b)(5), Page C-15, Amendment # 4. Amendment 4 did not incorporate the changes in Amendment 1. Have these changes been deleted or was this an inadvertent omission?	This error was corrected in Amendment 0005 dated January 16, 1998.
C. 4. 2.2	287.	Order Limitations - FAR 52.216-19 (Oct 1995): This paragraph states that the MOL is calculated on a four week-period. However, in response to Item 216 of the TDA-3 Q & A Report (Part 3) the Government states that the quantity given in the example is an annual number. Please clarify if the MOL units provided in D.6 are annual or four week-period quantities. Your response to this question is imperative, as it will dramatically effect the prices proposed, since suppliers generally provide greater discounts on larger quantities. In addition, the answer to this question is very important as this vendor has proposed certain items in lieu of others based on better discounts and may have to reconsider some of its choices.	The MOL units provided in D.6 are annual quantities. Please note that the CLIN structure specifies the time frame for quantities. For example, Item No. 0001 indicates the first year (see page D.6.1 of the solicitation). Likewise, Item No. 0002 on this same page indicates the second year. Notice that the heading on page D.6.1 says MOL by CLIN applicable to contract months 1 - 24. Page C-20 of the solicitation states that the "MOL is calculated on a cumulative basis during each successive four-week period during the term of the contract and until the last date that orders are received by the Contractor." The IRS will make this calculation.
D-4	288.	RFP Section D-4, Row 31, Page D.4-13. This row is blank with the exception of the Yes>> and No>>. We assume this is a typographical error. Please clarify.	You are correct. The typographical error has been corrected. Please refer to amendment 0005 dated January 16, 1998.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
D-4	289.	<p>The Government stated offerors need to meet or exceed minimum mand req. As noted in this question, there is no means of reporting when the offered product exceeds the requirement.</p> <p>The Tech. Req. Matrix requires a Y/N response. There are instances, however, where the offered product exceeds the min. req, which potentially would require a NO response. For example, min req for token ring card is 16-bit ISA interface. If an offeror were to propose a 32-bit PCI card, the solution exceeds the minimum, but would require a NO response, in a literal sense.</p> <p>But, based on the Government's requirements, in exceeding this requirement, an offeror could answer YES to the above referenced token ring question. Is this correct?</p>	<p>To be technically acceptable, proposed product shall meet the minimum requirements (at a minimal). The purpose of technical requirement matrix is for offerors to certify that the minimum requirements have been meet; not whether the minimum requirements have been exceeded. So being, you are correct in your example that the certification should indicate "yes" on the basis that the minimum requirement has been met.</p>
D-4	290.	<p>With the changes introduced by Amendment 4, would the Government consider releasing the updated Technical Requirement Matrix (WP file matrix) and the Pricing Spreadsheet (Lotus file tdaiir3) on the web site?</p>	<p>Updated versions of the Technical Requirement Matrix and the Pricing Spreadsheet have been released. Please refer to Amendments 0005, 0006 and 0007.</p>
D-4 & Section	291.	<p>Technical Requirements Matrix and Pricing Tables: Will the Government be updating the separate files into which offerors need to input data? Based on the number of CLINs and the requirements within each CLIN, it would be necessary for the Government to provide the revised matrices in order that all offerors are able to provide the correct information without discrepancies among proposals.</p>	<p>Updates to the Technical Requirements Matrix and Pricing Tables were updated in Amendments 0005 through 0007.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
D-6	292.	(As revised by Amendment 4): We would like to point out that the quantity of all non-network operation system software CLINs (0056, 0057, 0065, and 0066) is not equal to that of all workstation and notebook computers. The total two-year quantity for the aforementioned software CLINs is 15,500. The total two-year quantity for CLINs 0001, 0002, 0005, and 0006 is 24,100. In light of the Government's response to the referenced Item 112 (i.e., operating system software is separately orderable), is the difference between the two cited quantities intentional? Or is it an oversight?	No, this was not an oversight.
D-6	293.	Section D-6 and Section B (Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet): There have been numerous changes made in the requirements, yet no Technical Requirements Matrices or Pricing Spreadsheet revisions. When can this offeror expect this to be available?	Updated versions of the Technical Requirement Matrix and the Pricing Spreadsheet have been released. Please refer to Amendments 0005, 0006 and 0007.
D.	294.	How does the Government define "backwards compatible"? For instance, a Pentium II-based system is not backwards compatible to a Pentium-based system. Is this what the Government intends? Please clarify.	Please refer to the answer to Item 117.
D.10	295.	RFP Section D, Paragraph D.10 (Part 2), Pages 10-2 through 10-6. The government substituted pages 10-3, 10-5 and 10-6 with Amendments #3 and #4. However, page 10-4 contains CLIN #24 which should be deleted. Additionally, it is very difficult to cut and paste information in this section since the original pages were in landscape format and the amended pages are in portrait format. Would the government please consider putting all pages in this section in one format?	CLIN 0024 has been deleted from the table. Also, the pages have been revised to be uniformly formatted.
D.10	296.	Customer Assistance and Warranty Profile: Will the Government provide this worksheet in a separate downloadable file? This offeror would like to reduce the risk of incorrect data input or formatting errors, which could affect the integrity of this file.	This has been released as a separate downloadable file on the TDA-3 webpage.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2. 7. 3	297.	<p>In the matrices, it appears that what is stated in the RFP is not happening with our data entry into the model - we need some clarification. For example, in Section E.2.7.3,</p> <p>Precedence - Hard Copy versus Diskette, the Government states that in certain fields offer entered data may exceed field widths, thus causing truncation to occur in printed material. As we work with the document, we note that our printouts insert additional lines in order to allow display of the full text string. Is this acceptable to the Government or are we doing something in error that would cause our response to be unacceptable? Also with reference to the matrix we note the Government's preference for twelve point (ten point acceptable) font sizes. In Section D-4 Instructions state that " You are not allowed to make any changes to the matrices. You are only allowed to fill in the information as required for validation." The matrix provided is in seven point font. We have re-sized all fonts in the matrix to the preferred 12/10 size format which changes the number of pages that will be delivered in our proposal. Is this acceptable to the Government ?</p>	<p>Insertion of additional lines, within reason, to allow display of the full text string is acceptable to the Government.</p> <p>The font size in this section was compressed to allow for uniformity in the print out of matrix data. For example, all columns associated with a particular matrix should be printed on the same (8 1/2" x 11") sheet. If the change in font size causes some columns to overlap on another sheet, then the font size should not be changed.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2. 8. 3.	298.	<p>The Government has marked FAR clause 52.225-3, which would suggest that the Buy American Act would apply even though the associated certificate has not been provided. Given this, how will the Government evaluate a CLIN whose extended value falls below the \$190,000 threshold? For example, if an offeror proposes a product from Taiwan and the extended value of the product is below \$190,000, then the Buy American Act would apply and a penalty of as much as 12% would be assigned. If, however, the extended value of the Taiwanese product exceeds \$190,000, then the Trade Agreement Act would apply and the offeror would be disqualified because it has proposed a non-TAA compliant product. Is this understanding correct?</p>	<p>On the basis that the Government has determined that the Trade Agreement Act apply to this acquisition on a CLIN level, the clause at FAR 52.225-9 entitled "Buy American Act-Trade Agreements-Balance of Payments Program," is incorporated. The incorporation by reference of FAR clause 52.225-3 has been deleted. In accordance with FAR 25.402(c)(1), "[t]here shall be no acquisition of foreign end products subject to the Trade Agreement Act unless the foreign end products are eligible products, except as noted in [FAR] paragraphs [25.402](c)(2) and (c)(3)...." Please refer to FAR Part 25.401 for the definition of "eligible product". Further, pursuant to FAR 25.402, "when the value of the proposed acquisition on an eligible product is estimated to be over the dollar threshold, agencies shall evaluate offers for an eligible product without regard to the restrictions of the Buy American Act...or Balance of Payments Program...." Please note, FAR Subpart 25.4, entitled "Trade Agreements", does not apply to acquisitions (at a CLIN level for TDA-3) below the dollar threshold in FAR 25.402(a)(1) through (3) respectively.</p>
E. 2. 8. 7.	299.	<p>With regard to Volume I, Business Proposal, Tab G, Other Mandatory Requirements and Contract Terms and Conditions, this section appears to be reserved for offerors to answer mandatory requirements which are not explicitly addressed in other volumes or sections (e.g. the technical matrix included as Tab A, Volume III).</p> <p>Does the Government wish a section by section response to each such mandatory RFP requirement or will the Government accept generic language acknowledging offeror acceptance of other mandatory requirements ?</p>	<p>The Government will accept generic language acknowledging offeror acceptance of other mandatory requirements.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2. 9. 2	300.	<p>We have a questions about the Lotus 123 versions referenced. Section E.2.9.2. Section 2 - Pricing Spreadsheet/Evaluation Model. "...using the LOTUS 1-2-3 (Release 3.1+) spreadsheet provided by the IRS."</p> <p>In the Price Evaluation Model Users Manual attached to the RFP on Page (4) the Government says: "LOTUS 1-2-3- for Windows, Release 5 must be used with the .wk4 files." [This vendor] interprets that the plus symbol, "+", as used in the above quoted reference allows us to use a current version of LOTUS capable of saving the spreadsheet model as a .wk3 file. We also find no .wk4 files available for download from the Government's web-site. Is our interpretation vis the use of current LOTUS versions correct, and acceptable to the Government ?</p>	No. Please refer to the current modification to the solicitation. The Government's intent is that all Lotus files be saved with the .wk4 extension.
E. 2. 9. 2. 2 (20	301	<p>Reference: RFP Section E, Paragraph E.2.9.2.2 (20), Page E-20, Amendment #4. The paragraph states, "The spreadsheet highlighted from column X titled 'The IRS Evaluated Price' down to Cell 32KB internal and 256KB external cache memory; X149 is the only hard copy report required." Please clarify this requirement. Does the government want the offeror to print Column X, cell X1 through X149?</p>	Yes. Please print cells A1 through x149.
E. 2. 9. 2. 2 (20	302.	<p>RFP Section E, Paragraph E.2.9.2.2 (20), Page E-20, Amendment #4. The second paragraph states, "In order to print the spreadsheet, highlight from cell A1 to column x, IRS Evaluated Price for all CLINS down to the life cycle cost." In using Lotus 123, Release 5 for Windows, before inputting data it was possible to highlight cell A1 (there are two cell A1's) at this point. After inputting data, only one cell A1 remained and it could not be highlighted. Highlighting was only possible beginning at cell B1. Please provide additional information or instructions which will permit us to comply with the requirement.</p>	Including cell A1 in your printout is very important. A solution to your problem would be to use Lotus commands to clear cell A1 of any titles that may prevent you from highlighting the cell. There are two ways of doing this in Lotus 123, Release 5 for windows: 1) use slash (/) "worksheet", "titles", "clear"; or 2) click on "view" in the Lotus menu, then click on "freeze titles;" both methods are acceptable.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2. 9. 2. 2(26)	303.	The paragraph states "The Schedule Report is the only hard copy report required. It can be printed through the menu and accessed by pressing [Alt M], selecting PRINT, then selecting SCHEDULE, and then selecting ALL_DATA." With Lotus 123 Release 5 for Windows, I cannot generate the required Schedule Report. Would the government please provide a sample of what the Schedule Report is or provide more detailed instruction for how to generate this report with the stated Lotus Release 5 software.	The Government requirement is that you provide a hard copy report of your entire proposal. If you did not have success with the print Macro, then you are allowed to use manual print commands to print your proposal.
E. 2. 9. 2. 2-	(2 304.	This paragraph states "The solicitation number and program are pre-entered by the IRS". However, the solicitation # in the price model spreadsheet is TIRO-98-00028. Should the offeror update this information to reflect the correct solicitation number.	Yes. Also, please note that the revised pricing tables have been updated to reference the correct solicitation number.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2. 9. 2. 2.	305.	<p>In Section E.2.9.2.2 Specific Pricing Spreadsheet Instructions, points number (6) and (7) address expansion of CLINs into sub-CLINs. The Government states that "sub-CLIN pricing will be 'rolled' into the designated CLIN level component." When we expand a particular CLIN by inserting rows as described in the instructions for use of the Government's model there is no "totaling formula" for accomplishing the previously mentioned 'rolling' function. We assume that the Government's intent in the use of the term 'rolled' was to imply that sub-CLIN pricing would not stand alone but rather would be reflected in the single price for the CLIN. Is our assumption correct? In any event, since the technical breakout for the Volume III matrix responses is not all inclusive to the components included with the "system unit" (e.g. no specific power supply or case requirement) any pricing at the sub-CLIN level would by necessity not total to the system unit price shown at the CLIN level. With regard to NSP as discussed in points number (6) and (7), it appears that the Government wishes us to use the NSP column in point number (6), but states in point number (7) that NSP is not used for this solicitation. [This vendor] intends to follow the instruction at point number (6) thus providing in the NSP column, the CLIN number where "rolled" sub-component prices would be reflected in the CLIN total. Is this acceptable to the Government ?</p>	Yes.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 2.10. 2	306.	In RFP Section E.2.10.2 Tab B - Customer Technical Assistance Warranty Service, the Government instructs offerors to complete the profile forms included in Section D Attachment 10 and states "no information other than that requested on the Section D Attachment 10 forms shall be included in this section." We find no other specific location where additional information regarding the customer service warranty service processes can be included with our proposal. It is our intent to include such information in Volume I Business Proposal, Tab G, Other Mandatory Requirements and Contract Terms and Conditions. Is this acceptable to the Government, and if not where should such information be presented ?	Yes.
E. 2.11	307.	RFP Section E, Paragraph E.2.11, Page E-22, B.23.1 and B.23.2. The paragraph states, "This requirement includes documentation that supports compliance with government energy-efficiency requirements" This requirement is not listed in the product matrices and therefore it is unclear where to place the references for the products. Please clarify.	All certifications of Energy Star compliance must be submitted with the product literature.
E. 2.17	308.	Section E, Paragraph (e). Multiple Offers. Not applicable. Our firm would like to submit an offer for the Full and Open and for the Small business set-aside part of this solicitation. Is this allowed?	No. Please refer to Sections E.2.17 entitled "Alternate or Multiple Proposals" and E.3.11 entitled "Submission of Offers and Participation by Competing Companies in TDA-3. The purpose of these restrictions is to have the Government accrue the benefits of competition for orders between the contractors after the minimum purchase obligation on each of the contracts is met.

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
E. 3.11	309.	A client we represent is a large business that is signed up as a subcontractor on a full & open team on TDA III. They have been approached by both another full & open prime bidder and one small business prime bidder that would like them to join their respective teams as well. Reviewing the RFP it is clear that a small business and a large firm cannot bid on both the full & open and the small business lots. However, the RFP from what I cannot find, does not state what my client is allowed to do under the above scenario.	The subcontracting restrictions included with the TDA-3 solicitation applies to companies competing as a prime contractor.
Q&A Item 92	310.	Response 92, CLIN #s 65,66,55,54,52 and 49: Is it acceptable to provide the same software to meet both the specific and non-specific software requirements (i.e. Windows 95 and Windows NT)?	Yes.
Q&A Items 215	311.	The response in 237 refers back to the response at 215. The question at 237 deals with penalties for providing TAA products. The answer at 215 does not answer the question at 237. Please clarify what the penalties would be and how they would be assessed for proposing TAA products.	<p>FAR Clause 52.225-3 entitled "Buy American Act-Supplies" was deleted from the solicitation in Amendment 0004 dated January 9, 1998. Products proposed in response to the TDA-3 solicitation shall be TAA compliant. Please refer to FAR Clause 52.225-9. There shall be no acquisition of foreign end products subject to the Trade Agreement Act unless the foreign end product are eligible products, except as provided in FAR paragraphs 25.402(c)(2) and (c)(3). The BAA and the Balance of Payments Program shall be applied at the CLIN level in accordance with the policies outlined at FAR Subpart 25.402.</p> <p>Also, please refer to Item 298.</p>

Reference	Item	Question	Answer
Q&A Part 1	312.	<p>The vendor questions and Government's answers (01 through 08) surrounding the small business qualification standard of the TDA-3 acquisition appear to require that both the offeror as well as each of its suppliers/manufacturers must meet the SIC 5045 size standard of less than 500 employees. If this position is correct, it is believed that no small business can meet this requirement if it extends to the manufacturers of all the products. To our knowledge, there are no manufacturers of Hard Disk Drives, Tape Drives, CD-Reader/Recorders, etc. as well as Microsoft and Corel software that can meet the size standard of less than 500 employees.</p> <p>In this connection it is recommended that the Government clarify that the requirement for vendor's supplier/manufacturers to meet the "less than 500 employee" test be expressly eliminated or waived. The stated current waivers for mainframe computers and peripherals; and laser printers are insufficient to cover all of the products required by the instant Solicitation. We believe the Government's response to this issue will also affect the change to Section C.3 issued in Amendment 0001.</p>	Please refer to the responses provided for Items 241 and 242.
Q&A Part 3	313.	<p>Item #106, 107, 109-114, 144, 176-179, 185, 198, 200, 213-214: The questions and answers for the above referenced Items are not complete, and therefore are unclear as to the question asked or answer provided. Please provide revised Questions and Answers (Part 3) that provide the complete question and response for each item.</p>	The PDF file for Q&A Report 3 was reprinted and published on the website to provide the complete questions and answers for the referenced Items.